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ready answer to the many questions which confront a citizen almost every day in regard to his commercial, legal, and political relations. Its aim is to supply to the citizen whose energies are bent upon perfecting himself in one line of activity, and whose knowledge of matters outside his own field of work is correspondingly limited, information which shall be readily accessible and comprehensible upon the more salient features of every-day affairs. "In no sense," say the authors, "is it to be regarded as a legal treatise. It is only an outline and an explanation of the use of terms in a given subject that is attempted, a summary of the essential points."

In all twenty-eight subjects are treated, including matters of such practical importance to the business man as negotiable instruments, partnership and corporations, stocks and bonds, transportation, mortgages and insurance, landlord and tenant, building associations, etc. The book is so small and so many subjects are treated that the exposition of each subject is necessarily very superficial, but, nevertheless, is in the main accurate.

We believe that a handbook which would supply practical and concise information upon constantly recurring questions of every-day affairs has been needed, and in the present volume the authors seem admirably to have accomplished their purpose in furnishing ready and accurate answers to the questions which every citizen asks almost daily of "someone else."

F. H. S.

HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF PUBLIC CORPORATIONS. By HENRY H. INGERSOLL, LL.D., Dean of the University of Tennessee School of Law. Pp. xvii+738. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Company. 1904.

The scope of Judge Ingersoll's treatment may best be apprehended from his definition: "A public corporation is a corporation created by the state for public purposes only, as an instrumentality to increase the efficiency of government, supply the public wants, and promote the public welfare."

Under this heading he draws three main divisions—"Quasi Corporations," "Municipal Corporations," and "Quasi Municipal Corporations." The treatment is clear, concise, and well considered in every detail. The law is not only stated as it is, but why it is, and one feels the guiding thread of reason draw him from one principle to another in harmonious succession. One great benefit of the arrangement is that it is impossible to get lost in the details of some elaborate investigation so as to lose sight of the relation it bears to the main topic. One

is constantly reminded by the very clear classification just what main topic is under consideration and in what particular that topic is being discussed.

The book is one of the "Hornbook Series," and is identical in plan of arrangement with the other works already published in the same series, but aside from this general plan the analysis of the subject proper is necessarily the author's, and the excellence of this part of the work will at once commend it to every reader.

There are over three thousand cases cited, the principal ones being in capital type, besides many references to other workers in the same or allied fields.

The work is not only invaluable to the student of those corporations of which it treats, but as a reference for the practitioner it will be found especially valuable for its clearness and accuracy.

E. S. R.

AN OUTLINE OF THE FRENCH LAW OF EVIDENCE. By OLIVER E. BODINGTON, B.A. (Lond.), of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, Member of the United States Federal Bar, Licencié en Droit de l'Université de Paris. Pp. viii+199. London: Stevens & Sons, Ltd., 119 and 120 Chancery Lane. 1904.

This well-written little treatise will prove very helpful to one engaged in the conduct of international litigation, it being desired to so arrange evidence procured from England or this country that it may be admissible in a French court. The academic student, or general reader even, interested in such subjects will enjoy a perusal of the pages of this book, which will interest a layman owing to the marked contrasts between the laws of this country and France as to the admissibility of evidence. According to our system every fact, speaking generally, except the contents of a document, must be proved by oral evidence. In France oral evidence is exceptional, documentary evidence the rule. Formerly oral evidence, where the amount in dispute exceeded one hundred francs, was absolutely excluded, but the rigor of this rule has been somewhat modified. In the vast majority of civil cases no oral testimony is introduced at all, and in French civil courts the institution of the jury does not exist. French criminal procedure differs widely from ours. There is a *Juge d'Instruction*, who examines the prisoner. His function resembles somewhat the office of our grand jury. From these and other illustrations which might be cited, it will be seen that this book presents interesting reading matter for the reading public, since almost everybody to a certain extent knows something about the subject treated, as it exists in our system of law.

W. H. M.